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ABSTRACT

Noting that child care arrangements are one of the most important decisions parents face, this videotape discusses characteristics to look for when evaluating a day care facility, either home-based or center-based. The 10-minute videotape suggests that parents' look for a facility in which the child will be both happy and safe, then outlines areas to evaluate during unscheduled visits. These include play area characteristics, interaction between caregivers and children, modes of discipline, demeanor and attitudes of the children, developmental appropriateness of daily activities, safety, nutrition, and a state license. The videotape recommends that once a program has been selected, parents take time to talk to providers about their child's progress and well being, talk with the child about activities and his or her impressions, and work with the caregivers to ensure the child's success. (HTH)

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